

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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R 241630Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2173

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2186

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV GY

SUBJ: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT GIVES GOG CARTE BLANCE FOR ACQUISITION
OF PRIVATELY OWNED LANDS AND PROPERTIES AT ITS OWN PRICE

REF: GEORGETOWN A-103 OCT 3, 1975

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GUYANA PARLIAMENT ADOPTED CONSTITU-

TIONAL AMENDMENT DEC 18 ENABLING GOG TO EXPROPRIATE PRIVATELY
OWNED LANDS AND PROPETIES AT THEIR 1939 VALUATION AS
DETERMINED BY GOG. COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF PROPERTY WILL
NOW BE MADE IN FORM OF GOVERNMENT BONDS RATHER THAN CASH.
ADDITIONAL SUMS CAN AT DISCRETION OF MINISTER BE AWARDED TO
CLAIMANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS ON THE PROPERTY OR FOR HIGHER
PURCHASE PRICE IF PURCHASED SINCE 1939, IN AMOUNT DEEMED
APPROPRIATE BY CHIEF VALUATION OFFICER. AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION
CANNOT RPT NOT BE APPEALED TO THE COURTS. THIS LAW
EXCLUDES ALL BAUXITE LANDS, WHICH, IN ANY EVENT, ARE ALREADY
COWNED GY GOG. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. COMMENT: ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION GIVES THE

GOVERNMENT FULL PRACTICAL CONTROL OF ALL PROPERTY AND
THUS ENABLES IT TO TAKE OVER SUGAR ESTATES, OTHER LAND
HOLDINGS, RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AND COMPANIES AT TIME AND
ALMOST AT PRICE OF ITS CHOICE. IMMEDIATE EFFECT WILL
PROBABLY BE FELT BY THE SCHOOLS OWNED BY RELIGIOUS
BODIES (SEE REPAIR). THE ELIMINATION OF THE ROLE OF
THE COURTS GIVES THE PNC PRACTICALLY UNRESTRICTED POWER
OVER THE ALREADY SUBDUED AND GENERALLY OBEDIENT JUDICIARY
TO IMPLEMENT ITS MARXIST-LENINIST POLICY TOWARD PRIVATE
PROPERTY WITHOUT CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRAINT. THE TWO UNITED
FORCE OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT COMPLAINED OF
ILLEGALITIES IN THE PRESENTATION OF THE AMENDMENT (THE
COMPENSATION BY BONDS FEATURE, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS A LAST-
VINUTE ADDITION) TO NO AVAIL. THE MOSCOW-LINE PPP, STILL
BOYCOTTING PARLIAMENT, HAS TAKEN NO POSITION ON THE AMENDMENT.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE CO.,
THE FEW LARGER REMAINING AMERICAN BUSINESSES IN GUYANA
ARE OPIC INSURED AND, ALTHOUGH SUBJECT TO THIS LAW, GOG
TAKEOVER OF THEIR ASSETS WOULD REQUIRE NEGOTIATION
AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE RESPECTIVE GOG-OPIC AGREEMENTS.
KREBS

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NNN

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